

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In the claims, please cancel claims 1, 35, and 36 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 2-26 and 31, and add new claims 37 and 38 as provided below:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 13~~claim 4~~ wherein the providing step includes allowing the at least one subscriber providing a telephone device adapted for the first party to activate and cancel the charge-all mode via the associated one of the first and second telephone devices.

3. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 2 wherein the associated one of the first and second telephone devices~~telephone device~~ includes a special key for activation and cancellation of the charge-all mode.

4. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 13~~claim 4~~ wherein the providing step includes providing a customer service operation to the at least one~~first~~ subscriber to activate and cancel the charge-all mode, wherein the customer service operation is associated with a ~~wireless~~-service provider associated with the at least one~~first~~ subscriber.

5. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 13~~claim 4~~ wherein the providing step includes providing a web page accessible to the at least one~~first~~ subscriber to activate and cancel the charge-all mode, wherein the web page is associated with a ~~wireless~~-service provider associated with the at least one~~first~~ subscriber.

6. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 13~~claim 4~~ wherein the providing step includes providing logic adapted to detect activation and cancellation of the charge-all mode by the at least one~~first party, first subscriber, second party, and second subscriber~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in ~~claim 13~~claim 4 wherein the charge-all mode provided includes at least one of a continuous charge-all mode and a per-call charge-all mode.

8. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 7 wherein the at least one subscriber~~first or second party~~ activates the charge-all mode prior to origination of the call and the charge-all mode provided is a continuous charge-all mode.

9. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 7 wherein the at least one subscriber~~first or second party~~ activates the charge-all mode prior to the connecting step (step b)) and after origination of the call and the at least one subscriber~~activating party~~ selects between activation of the continuous charge-all mode or the per-call charge all mode.

10. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 7 wherein the at least one subscriber~~first or second party~~ activates the charge-all mode while the call is connected between the first and second telephone devices~~parties~~ and the at least one subscriber~~activating party~~ selects between activation of the continuous charge-all mode or the per-call charge all mode.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The method set forth in claim 10~~A method of billing a first subscriber having a first telephone device associated with a call in a telecommunication network for variable charges associated with the call normally billed to a second subscriber having a second telephone device associated with the call, the method including the steps:

a) providing a charge-all mode whereby the first subscriber can arrange to have the first subscriber billed for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the second subscriber and the second subscriber can arrange to have the second subscriber billed for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the first subscriber;

b) connecting the call between the first telephone device and the second telephone device;

c) determining whether charge-all mode has been arranged for the first subscriber;

d) determining whether charge-all mode has been arranged for the second subscriber; and

e) if charge-all mode has been arranged for at least one, but not both, of the first and second subscribers, billing the at least one subscriber for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the other subscriber;

wherein the charge-all mode provided includes at least one of a continuous charge-all mode and a per-call charge-all mode;

wherein the at least one subscriber activates the charge-all mode while the call is connected between the first and second telephone devices and the at least one subscriber selects between activation of the continuous charge-all mode or the per-call charge all mode; and

wherein anthe activating party using one of the first and second telephone devices selects between retroactive application of variable charges for the call to the subscriber associated with the telephone device used by the activating party and application of variable charges for the call to the subscriber associated with the telephone device used by the activating party from the point of activation forward.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The method set forth in claim 10A~~ method of billing a first subscriber having a first telephone device associated with a call in a telecommunication network for variable charges associated with the call normally billed to a second subscriber having a second telephone device associated with the call, the method including the steps:

a) providing a charge-all mode whereby the first subscriber can arrange to have the first subscriber billed for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the second subscriber and the second subscriber can arrange to have the second subscriber billed for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the first subscriber;

b) connecting the call between the first telephone device and the second telephone device;

c) determining whether charge-all mode has been arranged for the first subscriber;

d) determining whether charge-all mode has been arranged for the second subscriber; and

e) if charge-all mode has been arranged for at least one, but not both, of the first and second subscribers, billing the at least one subscriber for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the other subscriber;

wherein the charge-all mode provided includes at least one of a continuous charge-all mode and a per-call charge-all mode;

wherein the at least one subscriber activates the charge-all mode while the call is connected between the first and second telephone devices and the at least one subscriber selects between activation of the continuous charge-all mode or the per-call charge all mode; and

wherein a cancellingthe activating party using one of the first and second telephone devices cancels the charge-all mode while the call is connected between the first and second telephone devicesparties and the canceling party selects between retroactive cancellation of variable charges for the call and cancellation of variable charges for the call from the point of cancellation forward.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The method set forth in claim 1, further including the step:~~A method of billing a first subscriber having a first telephone device associated with a call in a telecommunication network for variable charges associated with the call normally billed to a second subscriber having a second telephone device associated with the call, the method including the steps:

a) providing a charge-all mode whereby the first subscriber can arrange to have the first subscriber billed for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the second subscriber and the second subscriber can arrange to have the second subscriber billed for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the first subscriber;

b) connecting the call between the first telephone device and the second telephone device;

c) determining whether charge-all mode has been arranged for the first subscriber;

d) determining whether charge-all mode has been arranged for the second subscriber;

e) if charge-all mode has been arranged for at least one, but not both, of the first and second subscribers, billing the at least one subscriber for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the other subscriber; and

f) if charge-all mode has been arranged for both of the first and second subscribers, performing a racing condition resolution algorithm to determine billing of the variable charges for the call between the first and second subscribers.

14. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 13~~claim 4~~, further including the step:

~~g)~~f) if charge-all mode has been arranged for none of the first and second subscribers, using normal billing procedures to determine billing of the variable charges for the call between the first and second subscribers.

15. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 13~~claim 4~~, the billing step (step e)) further including the step:

f) communicating a charge-all mode flag and billing events associated with the call to a billing center associated with the at least one subscriber.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of applying variable charges associated with a call in a telecommunication network to a first subscriber associated with a first telephone device used by a first party to the call, wherein at least a portion of the variable charges are normally billed to a second subscriber associated with a second telephone device used by a second party to the call, the method including the steps:

a) providing a charge-all mode whereby the first party or the first subscriber can activate the charge-all mode ~~thereby arranging~~ to have variable charges associated with the call, including variable charges normally billed to the second subscriber, applied to the first subscriber;

b) connecting the call between the first telephone device~~party~~ and the second telephone device~~party~~;

c) determining if charge-all mode was activated for the first subscriber; and

d) if charge-all mode was activated for the first subscriber, applying variable charges associated with the call, including variable charges normally billed to the second subscriber, to the first subscriber;

wherein the first party is a calling party and the second party is a called party in relation to the call.

17. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 16 ~~wherein the first party is a calling party and the second party is a called party in relation to the call~~wherein the providing step includes providing a telephone device adapted for the first party to activate and cancel the charge-all mode.

18. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in ~~claim 16~~claim 17 wherein the first party uses a first mobile station to originate the call, the second party uses a second mobile station to answer the call, and the variable charges applied to the first subscriber include air time charges normally applied to the second subscriber.

19. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in ~~claim 16~~claim 17 wherein the first party uses a landline telephone device to originate the call, the second party uses a mobile station to answer the call, and the variable charges applied to the first subscriber include air time charges normally applied to the second subscriber.

20. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in ~~claim 16~~claim 17 wherein the first party uses a telephone device associated with a call center environment to originate the call, the second party uses a mobile station to answer the call, and the variable charges applied to the first subscriber include air time charges normally applied to the second subscriber.

21. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 16 ~~wherein the first party is a called party and the second party is a calling party in relation to the call~~wherein the providing step includes providing a customer service operation to the first party or the first subscriber to activate and cancel the charge-all mode, wherein the customer service operation is associated with a service provider associated with the first subscriber.

22. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 16~~claim 24~~ wherein ~~the second party uses a first mobile station to originate the call and the variable charges applied to the first subscriber include air time and long distance charges normally applied to the second subscriber~~wherein the providing step includes providing a web page accessible to the first party or the first subscriber to activate and cancel the charge-all mode, wherein the web page is associated with a service provider associated with the first subscriber.

23. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 16~~claim 24~~ wherein ~~the second party uses a landline telephone device to originate the call and the variable charges applied to the first subscriber include long distance charges normally applied to the second subscriber~~wherein the providing step includes providing logic adapted to detect activation and cancellation of the charge-all mode by the first party, first subscriber, second party, and second subscriber.

24. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 16~~claim 24~~ wherein ~~the second party uses a telephone device associated with a call center environment to originate the call and the variable charges applied to the first subscriber include local and long distance charges normally applied to the second subscriber~~wherein the charge-all mode provided includes at least one of a continuous charge-all mode and a per-call charge-all mode.

25. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 16~~claim 24~~ wherein ~~the second party uses a pay phone to originate the call and the variable charges applied to the first subscriber include local and long distance charges normally applied to the second subscriber~~further including the step:

e) if charge-all mode has been arranged for both of the first and second subscribers, performing a racing condition resolution algorithm to determine billing of the variable charges for the call between the first and second subscribers.

26. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication network providing an infrastructure for connecting a telephone call from a first party using a first telephone

device associated with a first subscriber to a second party using a second telephone device associated with a second subscriber, including:

a first network serving the first party and adapted to provide a charge-all mode whereby the first party or first subscriber can arrange to have the first subscriber billed for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the second subscriber, the first network including a first charge-all mode logic adapted to detect activation and cancellation of the charge-all mode by the first party and first subscriber;
and

a second network in communication with the first network serving the second party and adapted to provide a charge-all mode whereby the second party or second subscriber can arrange to have the second subscriber billed for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the first subscriber, the second network including a second charge-all mode logic adapted to detect activation and cancellation of the charge-all mode by the second party and second subscriber,

wherein at least one of the first and second charge-all mode logics including a racing condition resolution algorithm to determine billing of the variable charges for the call between the first and second subscribers if charge-all mode has been arranged for both of the first and second subscribers.

27. (Original) The telecommunication network set forth in claim 26 wherein the first network includes at least one of a wireless network, a landline network, or a call center environment.

28. (Original) The telecommunication network set forth in claim 26 wherein the second network includes at least one of a wireless network, a landline network, or a call center environment.

29. (Original) The telecommunication network set forth in claim 26, each of the first and second networks including:

means for connecting the call between the first party and the second party;

means for determining whether charge-all mode has been arranged for the first subscriber;

means for determining whether charge-all mode has been arranged for the second subscriber; and

means for billing the subscriber associated with at least one of the first and second subscribers for variable charges associated with the call that are normally billed to the other subscriber if charge-all mode has been arranged for at least one, but not both, of the first and second subscribers.

30. (Original) The telecommunication network set forth in claim 29, further including:

means for communicating a charge-all mode flag and billing events associated with the telephone call to a billing center associated with at least one of the first and second subscribers.

31. (Currently Amended) The telecommunication network set forth in claim 26, ~~further including: a wherein the~~ first telephone device is adapted for the first party to activate and cancel the charge-all mode; and ~~wherein the~~ a second telephone device is adapted for the second party to activate and cancel the charge-all mode.

32. (Original) The telecommunication network set forth in claim 31 wherein the first telephone device is selected from the group of a mobile station, a landline telephone device associated with a local exchange, a landline telephone device associated with a call center environment, and a pay phone.

33. (Original) The telecommunication network set forth in claim 31 wherein the second telephone device is selected from the group of a mobile station, a landline telephone device associated with a local exchange, a landline telephone device associated with a call center environment, and a pay phone.

34. (Original) The telecommunication network set forth in claim 31 wherein at least one of the first and second telephone devices include a special key for activation and cancellation of the charge-all mode.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (New) The method set forth in claim 16, wherein the first telephone device is a mobile station.

38. (New) The method set forth in claim 16, wherein the first telephone device is selected from the group of a landline telephone device associated with a local exchange, a landline telephone device associated with a call center environment, and a pay phone.